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Report from Puerto Cortez, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Carter reports as follows: Week ended August 30, 1904. Present officially estimated population, 2,125; no deaths; prevailing diseases, malarial fever of mild type and intestinal diseases; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Aug. 25	Beverly.....	44	8	0	0
26	Espana.....	18	0	0	0
27	Bratten.....	15	0	0	0
27	Gyller.....	14	0	0	0
29	Helen.....	20	6	0	0

Number of aliens sailing from this port during week, 4.

INDIA.

Report from Bombay—Outbreak of cholera.

Acting Asst. Surg. Edward H. Hume reports, August 6, as follows:

Mortality of Bombay city, week ended August 2, 1904.

	Week ended—		Mean of same week for 5 preceding years.
	Aug. 2, 1904.	Aug. 4, 1903.	
Plague attacks.....	59
Plague deaths.....	55	100	71
Plague mortality per 1,000.....	3.68	6.70	4.75
Smallpox deaths.....	8	5	5
Cholera deaths.....	23	0	78
Total deaths.....	581	570	803
Total mortality per 1,000.....	38.93	38.19	52.56

I regret to have to report an outbreak of cholera in the Presidency, starting, as is frequently the case, at a great pilgrimage center. About July 23 there was held the usual great annual festival in the town of Pandharpur, about 30 miles by road from Barsi Road, a station on the railway 234 miles southeast of Bombay. To this festival devout Hindus went on a pilgrimage, starting from their homes in distant parts of the Presidency, because it was an act in their eyes by which they would acquire great merit. It is reported that on the great day of the feast 400,000 people were present at the temple where the central celebration occurred. The water supply in a place like Pandharpur must be questionable, especially at such crowded seasons, and the spread of cholera very easy. No sooner had the pilgrims commenced to return homeward than cholera broke out among them, and deaths have occurred since on every road, both railways and carriage roads, that leads away from that town. I have been able to get information from various centers as follows:

Poona.—One hundred and nineteen miles from Bombay, between Bombay and Pandharpur. This place has felt the effects of the outbreak quite markedly. Up to August 2, I learn that from 4 to 6 dead bodies were taken off the trains daily, when these trains arrived at Poona from the direction of Pandharpur. A great delegation had gone from Poona, and among those who returned and went to their homes cases broke out daily. I can not find the exact number thus attacked.

Miraj.—On the Southern Mahratta Railway, connected by a trunk road with Pandharpur. Many persons who came up on this railway from points south left the train here to go 75 miles across country to Pandharpur, some walking, others in carts. And when the tide turned and the pilgrims began to move homeward, cholera appeared all along the trunk road. During the week ended August 2, on some days as many as 20 bodies of persons dead of cholera were found in a single day within 3 miles of Miraj station.

And at the station itself the railway officials detected and removed quite a number of patients suffering from cholera, but who were planning to board a homeward-bound train unobserved. It was thought that some such cases must have escaped undetected, and this was later proved true, because cases of cholera appeared in Kolhapur, an important town 30 miles away from Miraj by rail.

Bombay City.—The feeling of the board of health is expressed in the following bulletin:

Cholera was not epidemic during the week ending August 2, 1904, the attacks reported being 45 and deaths 23 for the week. Out of the 45 cases 41 were imported from Pandharpur and 1 from Cutch-Bhooj. Nineteen of those imported from Pandharpur and 1 from Cutch-Bhooj died. The disease does not show a tendency to increase. It is not attributed to seasonable variations, but to importations, hence it is sporadic. The disease is not confined to any particular quarter or to any particular class of the population, and it has not any direct local connection with the harbor.

The board of health is making every effort to prevent a further spread of the disease in the city, and to that end every railway passenger coming from Pandharpur has his address recorded, and his condition after coming to the city is watched. Similarly, where a case of cholera has actually occurred, the movements of the contacts are recorded so that the infected areas may be marked out and limited. The statement by localities shows that during the week cases of cholera occurred in every one of the 7 wards; in none, however, were there more than 5 cases. Further, in the sections or ward subdivisions, there was equally scattered distribution, no section having more than 3 cases. The statement by races and castes shows the following distribution: Jains, 1 case; Hindus, 21 cases; Parsis, 1 case; total, 23 cases.

Absolutely regarded, therefore, the Hindus were the most severely affected race. The figures are too small for a true relative determination. It was to be expected that the Hindus would be the severest sufferers, as the pilgrimage was entirely theirs.

In addition to the places thus recorded, cases have been recorded in Ahmednagar and in other important centers.

The European community usually suffers but little during cholera epidemics, especially in those places where their residential section is some distance away from the native quarter of a town. However, that they are not immune was shown by the case of Mrs. Pym, wife of the Episcopalian bishop of Bombay, who was attacked in Poona on

August 4. The bishop was out of town, when Mrs. Pym was seized with symptoms of cholera at 3 p. m. He was telegraphed for, and arrived in five hours, only to find that she had died two hours previously. Other cases have shown similarly that the infections are, in general, very virulent.

It is gratifying to note that in the vicinity of Pandharpur itself the epidemic is already abating. A report from there says: "The temporary huts which were erected at Barsi Road Station to accommodate the cholera cases from Pandharpur have been burned down, as the epidemic has ceased."

The problem before the Government is the old one of striking the happy mean between rigorous and severe sanitary measures and a revolt because of offended religious sensibilities. As in the case of plague, probably not much more can be done than to attempt to isolate and follow cases and their contacts.

Of the 55 deaths from plague reported above, 12 occurred in the one ward, subdivision known as Mandoi, that quarter where, as I showed in my letter of July 29, the disease has always commenced its annual scourge.

Report from Calcutta—Inspection of vessel—Cholera and plague mortality.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, August 11, as follows: During the week ended August 6, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Tioga* bound for New York with a total crew of 58; the effects of Lascars were disinfected and fumigated, and rat guards were kept on wharf lines while the vessel lay at dock.

During the week ended August 6, 1904, there were 8 deaths from plague and 4 deaths from cholera in Calcutta.

In Bengal during the week ended July 30, 1904, there were 178 cases and 143 deaths from plague. In India during the week ended July 23, 1904, there were 3,756 cases and 2,608 deaths from plague.

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Propagation of plague.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, August 15, as follows: During the week ended August 22, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Aug. 16	Prinz Oscar	New York	318	80	550	8
17	Gallia	do	261	75	370	2
18	Gerty	do	189	60	320	2
18	Liguria	do	254	90	450	7

PALERMO.

Aug. 19	Gerty	New York	79	25	100	10
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